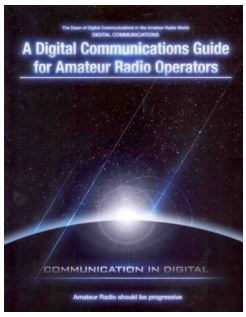
mini
the static
official newsletter of the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

# SNARS Coronavirus Bored as Hell Antidote!

Volume I number 21, May 23, 2020

**PRODUCT REVIEW: PORTABLE MAST OPTIONS** - Summer is almost here and the time to get away from " home detention " and people ! You know you want to take your new toys out and use them but may need a mast ? We have lots of choices, steel, aluminum, fiberglass, wooden and carbon fiber. From cheap semi expensive, from light weight to heavy, from compact to a pain in the rear to use ! Here are some examples:
http://www.disasterguy.net/17701.html https://www.mastwerks.com/ https://mfjenterprises.com https://mgs4u.com/fiberglass-push-up-masts/?v=7516fd43adaa https://go-vertical-usa.myshopify.com/ and many, many more. There is a mast for every need and price range. Watch the guys from GigaParts try to break their new line of carbon fiber masts!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cySF5B8uZWs
Get out, operate and most of all have fun! As we have seen these last several months life can throw us a curve at anytime ....

**RADIO HISTORY: AMATEUR DIGITAL MODES** - What and where are they, that is the question.
https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham_radio/digimodes/digital-modes-summary.php
You can download this booklet on the Yaesu web site.




**Digital modes on the amateur radio bands**. There are many digital modes used in amateur radio that some ops have never used or even heard of so this page contains a listing of the various digital modes available to us. Most of this information is from the author of MultiPSK which is of course Patrick, F6CTE. For more information on MultiPSK please visit Patrick's web site: MultiPSK. The various weak-signal modes such as JT9, JT65, FT8 and others from K1JT are covered on this page: weak-signal amateur radio modes.

On further investigating of these modes you'll soon find they each have sub-modes, speeds available. There are also various frequencies where these digital modes may be found. The mode frequencies are on this page: digital mode frequencies. Be sure to read up on the digital modes frequencies, especially for the Olivia digital mode as it will make a difference whether or not you can make any contacts on the mode.

Some years back PSK was the preferred digital mode in amateur radio. You could work DX, rag chew, contest and even rag chew while running low power. By low power that isn't to say QRP or QRPP although many do run their stations at those power levels.

Then the JT modes came along. First to get popular on HF is of course JT65 and operators discovered a whole new world of radio. Although some detractors make mention of the impersonality of the the JT and now the FT8 modes it's difficult to argue with the number of contacts one can make running sub-50 watt power levels using less than optimum antenna systems.

Please take a look at this video by Dave Casler. He keeps it simple and easy to learn to set up your own digital station.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COmSkT06_CY
Remember you should keep your power to a max of 20 watts output. Too many hams are running 100 watts and we had a customer who bought an amp and was mad that his transceiver and amp were overheating running 1500 watts on JT8! First your transceiver manual will tell you to bring the power way down to avoid over heating and causing interference. There is no reason to be running an amplifier on digital modes! You ruin it for everyone!

**HOW TO: HOW TO USE A SWR/ WATT METER** - Every ham shack should have a good swr / watt meter besides what metering is in your transceiver. This next video is the best I've seen explaining feed lines, forward / reflective SWR , antenna tuners and the pros and cons of each.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1eE13UXAKs
Learn from it your equipment and signal depend on it! SWR/Watt meters come in all prices and shapes. I suggest you buy a meter that has the option of measuring PEP (Peak Envelope Power). You can spend $20 or thousands. Daiwa, MFJ, Comet, Diamond and many Chinese models are out there. Plenty to pick from.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbj_r6QfN4I
Simple set up of a Bird 43 watt meter.

Your SWR/watt meter, dummy load and your antenna analyzer are as important as your antenna and transceiver!

I'm going to leave the comment section out because we don't hear from many of you? Should we keep doing these?
As usual stay tuned!
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